(c) The achievements upto March, 1989 are as follows:—

About 8.94 lakh pour flush latrines have been provided. 32 towns have been made scavenging free and about 10,000 scavengers have been liberated.

(d) As reported by State Governments, the number of scavengers relieved from this practice State-wise is given in the statement enclosed. (*See* below)

Statement

State-wise details of number of scavengers relieved from manual handling of night soil

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of scavengers relieved
1.	Assam	97
2.	Andhra Pradesh	879
3.	Bihar	4235
4.	Haryana	197
5.	Himachal Pradesh	236
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	263
7.	Karnataka	Not available
8.	Kerala	347
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1684
10.	Maharashtra	235
11.	Orissa	105
12.	Rajasthan	511
13.	Tamil Nadu	45
14.	Tripura	Not available
15.	Uttar Pradesh	700
16.	West Bengal	548
17.	Punjab	173
18.	Manipur	Not ava ilable
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	Not available

Increase in the prices of essential commodities

452. DR. YELAMANCHIL SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to arrest the rise in prices of essential commodities during the last three months; and

(b) what has been the impact of Government's efforts in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) The Government has taken both short-term and long term steps to arrest and contain rise in prices of essential commodities. The behaviour of prices of essential commodities is being reviewed at the highest level. Government of India in the Department of Civil Supplies is monitoring an collecting information on the prices and availability of selected essential commodities every week from selected centres of various States/ Union Territories.

The measures taken to arrest the price rise broadly include steps to increase the production of essential commodities which are in short supply; strengthening of Public Distribution System; strict enforcement of the provisions of Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures; regulation of exports of essential commodities and, if necessary, augmenting domestic supplies through imports to check any abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities through demand and supply gap. Periodical meetings have also been held with the representatives of trade and industry to increase the production and availability of essential commodities and check any abnormal rise in their prices.

(b) As a result of the efforts of the Government, it has been possible to contain the rise in prices of most of the essential commodities during the last three months. A statement showing percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) during February, 1990 over November, 1989 is given in statement enclosed (*See* below)

Statement

Percentage variation in the wholesale price indices (WPI) of selected commodities during February, 1990 over November, 1989

Commodity	Wholesale Price Index
Rice	−4·4
Wheat	−4·4
Jowar	−8·5
Bajra	+7·4
Gram	−13·9
Arhar	−1·7
Moong	−0·6
Masoor	−9·8
Urad	−5·5
Potatoes	−32·9
Onions	−51·0
Milk	−3·5
Fish	−2·7
Mutton	+1·4
Chillies (Dry)	−19·3
Tea	+3·6
Atta	−1·4
Sugar	−3·4
Gur	−14·4
Salt	+2·5
Vanaspati	−4·2
Mustard Oil	+1·0
Coconut Oil	+5·7
Groundnut Oil	+4·4
Gingelly Oil	+23·9

SOURCE: Office of Economic Advise Ministry of Industry.

Setting up of Rail Yatri Niwas in U.P.

453. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the locations of the Rail Yatri Niwas proposed to be set up in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): It has been decided to set up a 20 bedded Rail Yatri Niwas at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh.

Issue of ration cards to Jhonpri and slum dwellers in Delhi

454. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to issue ration cards to all the jhonpri and slum dwellers in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the number of cards issued, so far?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA) (a) and (b). Temporary ration cards were being issued by Delhi Administration to jhuggi jhonpri dwellers in accordance with decisions taken by it from time to time. Such rabion dwellers were last issued temporary cards in 1986. Recently, a decision was taken to issue ration cards to inhabitants of identifiable jhuggi jhonpri clusters. Till 8-3-90 over 70,000 cards have been issued to such persons.

Decline in employment on organised private sector

455. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that total employment in the